

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

GRIFFITH GAUNT.

Several causes have conspired to secure for the last of Mr. Charles Reade's novels considerable notoriety. While being published as a serial in the Atlantic Monthly, it was denounced as immoral by numbers of our leading journals. It was defended by the author in a letter in which he termed all who criticized him "beasts," and it seems that now it is to be the subject of a lawsuit. Under these circumstances, it is only natural that "Griffith Gaunt" should be the sensation of the hour. Its greatness belongs to the class of those that have fame thrust upon them, for certain it is that it was neither born great, nor yet achieved, through merit, an exalted position. But be the cause what it may, "Griffith Gaunt" is the literary lion, and as such demands our attention.

Let us give the plot of the book, and save our readers the shocks which a perusal of the work for themselves would unavoidably produce.

Catherine Peyton, a country belle, and second "Lady Gay Spanker," has two lovers, the affections of both of whom she appears to reciprocate about equally. Sir George Neville, the possessor of Neville's Court, unpretentious being one; the other Griffith Gaunt, a robust rustic, the presumptive heir of Bolton Castle. Griffith, infuriated, without any special cause, decides to leave the country, when the sudden death of Mr. Bolton induces Miss Peyton to borrow Sir George's horse, and ride after the departing lover. Sir George, having seen fit to take her horse, he gives a mortal offense to Griffith, who publicly insults him.

A duel is arranged, when, after two shots, Miss Peyton arrives and, after interposing her horse between the combatants, faints gracefully away. The duel is thus terminated, and they all proceed to the reading of Mr. Bolton's will. That document being inspected, proves that all the property is left to Miss Peyton, and Griffith out of with £2000. This seeming ill-fortune is really the flood tide of his future, for the lady feeling that injustice has been done, and not knowing how to remedy it except by marrying the wronged heir, offers herself this time, and the marriage immediately takes place. After living happily together for seven years, a priest appears upon the stage, and as Mrs. Gaunt is a Catholic, soon secures considerable influence over that lady. Father Leonard is a young saint in personal appearance, having mild and lustrous eyes, a pallid complexion, being an ascetic by reputation, a Jesuit by profession, and a St. Paul in the pulpit. Mrs. Gaunt nearly falls in love with him, and he decidedly falls in love with her. In fact, one day at the confessional he reveals his illicit affection, but she, surprised, does not consent to repel his advances. Matters continue this way for some time, and naturally attracts the attention of even the stupid Griffith. Meanwhile another little moral play is going on. Mr. Kyder, the lady's maid, falls desperately in love with Gaunt. Numerous chapters are devoted to the disgusting recital of how she endeavors to secure his affection. She at last poisons his ears with the recital of his wife's conduct, when, instead of his turning to her for consolation, he goes off into an epileptic fit. Having recovered his reason, he returns to the house, finds his wife whom he left at home and unable to move, and walking with Leonard, follows them, knocks her down, tramples on him, mounts his horse, and after riding for ninety-two miles without dismounting, arrives at the "Pack-horse," and suffers from an attack of brain fever. He is nursed, and saved from death by Mercy Vint, the barmaid, who, as a reward for her devotion, he marries, totally ignoring the existence of Mrs. Gaunt. He lives with her a year under a false name, has a child by her, and then being in want of money, returns to Bolton Castle, to secure some he left there.

...and a child by each. After oscillating for several months between the two, they both find out that he has played them false, and Mrs. Gaunt No. 1 threatens his life and his arrest. He flies in the night, and is heard to cry for "Help," and then mysteriously disappears. Suspicion is excited, the pond is dragged, and a dead body is found, half eaten by fishes. Mrs. Gaunt No. 1 is arrested and tried for the murder of her husband, makes a speech which rivals in ability the great address of Bufuz, and is acquitted by the sudden reappearance of the supposed victim. It appears that it was his bastard brother who was drowned, Thomas Leicester. At this stage of the proceedings, Sir George Neville, lost some hundred pages back, reappears, and conveniently marries Mrs. Gaunt No. 2, the barmaid, mistress of Griffith, his old rival. Mr. and Mrs. Gaunt are reunited, and all live happily together for a great many years, and die at a good old age.

Such, in brief, is the plot of the story, and a very unnatural, distorted, and immoral one it is. Let us notice the absurdity of the whole tale. Would any honorable woman, who loves her husband, meet another young man at midnight in a grove, to pray? Would it cause any surprise if, under the circumstances, the husband was to be jealous? And would he, if an honorable man, marry another woman, merely because his true wife was suspected of being unfaithful? Yet this is the morality of the work. No word of condemnation is uttered at this horrible doctrine. On the contrary, it is rather commended by the author, as all the guilty parties come out happy in the end. Again, what sane man will believe that Sir George Neville, the beau ideal of a polished gentleman, a chevalier, one in every respect a model, a knight and a nobleman, would marry a barmaid, the cast-off mistress of his rival? This is monstrous. And yet we are told that such was the case, and that they all met once at the Town Hall, and were surprised that people smiled. How must Griffith have felt with his two wives beside him! His feelings can only be properly appreciated by the venerable Brigham Young.

It is frequently the case that a few immoral characters are introduced into a novel to give it the appearance of nature, but these deformities are generally set off by the appearance of some of those who form the brighter side of human nature. There is a mixture of light and shade, but in "Griffith Gaunt" there is nothing but shade. There is not a character in the book which is not either seduced, a seducer, an adulterer, or a barmaid, except Catherine Gaunt, and she came very near ceasing to be an exception. Now this is a hard assertion, yet it is the truth. There are five principal characters. Griffith clearly is an adulterer, for he pretends to marry Mercy Vint while his wife still lives. Mrs. Gaunt is almost in love with Leonard, and comes very nearly being guilty of a crime for which the Hebrew was stoned to death. Mercy Vint, after marrying Griffith, marries another man, which is a gross violation of morality, while Sir George, by marrying a mistress of Griffith, causes her to commit adultery. Nor is this penchant confined to the leading characters. Mrs. Kyder has three paramours, and an illegitimate child; Thomas Leicester is a bastard brother of Griffith Gaunt; Mrs. Leicester was the victim of Griffith's father. To set the morality of the personages portrayed in a still clearer light let us make a small

RESUME.

Number of pages	185
Number of characters	12
Incontinent females	3
Almost incontinent	1
Adulterers	4
Bastards	2
Sensual priests	2

It will thus be seen that such a work is not fitted to enter any decent household, and that no father, brother, or respectable library should allow it to be within reach. But more of that sentiment anon.

Again, the wills of persons are all of them, by a strange fatality, directly opposed to what was universally expected. We have a record of four wills. Griffith Gaunt makes one, leaving all his possessions to Kate Peyton—totally unexpected. Sir George Neville does the same thing—also surprising. Old Mr. Bolton, after stating that he had left all to Griffith, leaves all to Miss Peyton. And a Gaunt of somewhere, who appears at the eleventh hour, leaves all his wealth to Griffith. It will thus be seen that in making their wills, people are not so disinterested as we suppose; and if Mr. Reade is to be believed, are governed by fickle likes or dislikes, and never by justice.

There is another noticeable omission in the book. There are no mothers portrayed. Whenever we find an author leaving his characters without mothers, without the effect of a mother's influence, we may feel pretty sure that the characters are not going to act rightly. And in "Griffith Gaunt" we have no mothers given us, and all the heroes and heroines do wrong.

The work opens peculiarly, and we must say that we like its abrupt commencement.

"Now I say once for all, that priests shall never darken my doors again."

"Then I say they are my doors and not yours, and the holy man shall brighten them whenever he will."

The gentleman and lady who faced each other, pale and furious, and interchanged the bitter defiance, were man and wife, and had "loved each other well." Then, without a word of explanation, the story begins eight years before, and we find the clue to the first sentences on page 72, when the work is half finished. The author commences with a climax and skillfully draws his reader with him. The words, however, are not particularly well selected. They are not the ending of an epoch. Griffith does not leave his wife in despair when she says these cruel words. If he did, the words would be well chosen; but they do not mark an era in the story, and we therefore deplore their selection.

Let us give the work all the praise we can. It is well written, and certain passages are remarkable for their power. The conversations are generally readable, and but once or twice degenerate into the sickening tangle of the dime novel. The style is succinct and picturesque, and deserves praise. When we say this, we say all we can in its favor. Mr. Reade has behaved most unfairly to the public. He has acquired a reputation by his novels for brilliancy and force. He has gained an entrance into every household. He secured a good name and fair fame, and under the mask of his previous works has sought to foist upon the public a tale which, if it found its true level, would be laid on no table but that of a brothel. It is because Messrs. Ticknor & Fields published it that it has created the attention that it has, and their good name cannot keep it up long. If they seek to sustain it, it will drag them down to its own level. It should be read by none who love the pure and the good. It abounds in passages at once most purulent and disgusting, which we cannot with decency quote here. But as its true character has been exposed, its author's fangs are drawn, and hereafter Charles Reade can enter only where the novels of George Sand and Henry Fielding are admired.

Practical Mineralogy, Assaying, and Mining. By Frederick Overman. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston.

The little work before us supplies a want long felt. It is a practical handbook and essay on mining. The rising influence of our mineral investments, and the hoards of capital which yearly flow into new enterprises to develop the mining wealth of our great West, as well as of our own State, render such a book most valuable and welcome. It will be appreciated by all who feel an interest in the subject, and is neatly bound and clearly printed.

The following is Longfellow's contribution to the November Atlantic:—

ON TRANSLATING THE "DIVINA COMMEDIA."

FOURTH SONNET.

How strange the sculptures that adorn these towers!

This crowd of statues, in whose folded sleeves

Birds build their nests; while canopied with leaves

Parvis and portal bloom like trellised bowers.

And the vast minister seems a cross of flowers!

But vests and dragoons from the gargoyled caves

Watch the dead Christ between the living thieves.

And underneath the traitor Judas lowers.

Ah! from what agonies of heart and brain,

What excruciations tramping on despair,

What tenderness, what tears, what hate of wrong,

What passionate outcry of a soul in pain,

Uprose this poem of the earth and air,

This medieval miracle of song!

—Messrs. T. B. Peterson, publishers, have sent us the following new books just issued by them:—

MARGARET MAITLAND, of Sunnyside. By Mrs. Olyphant. This is a novel of remarkable power, and is considered the best yet written by this distinguished authoress. It is said to be equal

in interest and dramatic effect to Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe."

WHITEFELLS; or, the Times and Days of Charles II. By the author of "Whitehall." This story has created quite a sensation in England, and is one of a series of historical novels by a well-known English author.

Messrs. Peterson also send us Harper's, Godey's, and the Atlantic Monthly for November.

The publishers of the new fortnightly magazine, make the liberal offer to give each purchaser of the November 1st number of the magazine a copy of a handsomely illustrated book of one hundred and sixty-five pages, containing the first twenty-six chapters of "The Claverings," Anthony Trollope's latest and, it is said, best story. "The Claverings" is appearing in the Galaxy simultaneously with its publication in England, and will soon be completed. The object of the publishers is to enable new readers of the magazine to read the conclusion of the story intelligibly. The plan they adopt is similar to that pursued with great success by the French publisher of one of Victor Hugo's most celebrated stories. The Galaxy has already established a brilliant reputation.

A Literary and Financial Discovery in Florence.

The last number of Fraser's Magazine gives an account of a literary treasure recently discovered in the Palazzo Riccardi in Florence. It consists of four large and thick manuscript folio volumes, containing the history of the banking operations carried on by the Peruzzi family from 1308 to 1346. With the Peruzzi were associated the Bardi, Scali, and Acciajoli. They lent enormous sums to Edward III. of England, which he could not repay, and on the 17th January, 1345, they failed. Edward, at that period, owing them about £70,000,000 sterling of present money. These records are to be edited by a descendant of the Peruzzi. The London Reader adds:—"We may mention that the Bardi and Acciajoli lent money, also, to St. Edmundsbury Abbey, and that copies of the transactions are still to be found in the various manuscripts of that house, several of which are preserved in the Cambridge University Library and the British Museum."

SALES.

B. SCOTT, JR., AUCTIONEER, No. 1020 CHESTNUT STREET.

CARD.—We are now prepared to make arrangements for special sales of Oil Paintings, Statuary, or any other Works of Art. Our location being in the centre of the most fashionable thoroughfare of our city, makes it a desirable resort for connoisseurs and lovers of art in general.

N. B.—Sales of merchandise in general solicited. Personal attention given to our doors-ales. B. SCOTT, JR.

CARD.—We shall sell on Tuesday morning next, 25th instant, at 11 o'clock precisely, several pairs of fine Arabian horses, French brozzes and bayazet figures being the contents of five cases which arrived too late for Messrs. Vail Bros' special sale of the 17th instant.

On Tuesday Morning, October 22d, at 11 o'clock, at the Philadelphia Art Gallery, No. 1020 CHESTNUT Street, an assortment of elegant agate, hardstone and alabaster vases, statuary, and other works of art, including several pieces of fine porcelain, and a number of other valuable articles, together with several pieces of French brozzes, bar-baglio columns, &c. &c. Open for examination on Monday afternoon, 19th inst.

SPECIAL SALE OF ELECTRO SILVER-PLATED GOODS, IVORY, TABLE, AND OTHER CUTLERY.

Direct from Messrs. Joseph Deakin & Sons, Sheffield, England, and now landing at New York per steamer "Alpena."

Due notice will be given of the sale. 10 20

SALE OF MODERN OIL PAINTINGS—CRYSTAL MEDALLIONS.

On Thursday and Friday evenings next, 25th and 26th instant, at half past 7 o'clock precisely, at Scott's Philadelphia Art Gallery, will be sold a collection of oil paintings, embracing works of merit from some of our most eminent American artists, together with a number of splendid crystal medallions. Open for examination on Tuesday, 22d inst. 10 20

CHARLES C. MACKAY, AUCTIONEER, No. 420 MARKET Street, between Third and Fourth.

LARGE SALE OF HARDWARE, CUTLERY, FILES, AND BARS, SINGLE AND DOUBLE-BARRELED GUNS, ETC., including some of the stock saved from the late fire on Commerce street.

Commencing at sharp 9 1/2 o'clock, at E. C. Mackay's Auction Room, No. 228 MARKET Street.

For sale: 1st, down Assorted Files and Cutlery; 2d, a lot of assorted Pocket Knives and Scissors; 3d, single and double-barreled Guns including 17 DUCK GUNS; also, Auger Bits, Coffin screws, Linen Tapes and Threaded Table and Tea Spoons, and various other Hardware, &c. &c. Open for examination on Tuesday, 22d inst. 10 20

PAN COAST & WARNOCK, AUCTIONEER, No. 240 MARKET Street.

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF 800 LOTS AMERICAN AND IMPORTED DRY GOODS, LINES, MILLINERY, AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS, by Catalogue on a card.

On Wednesday, October 24, commencing at 10 o'clock. 10 19 41

VISITING AND WEDDING CARDS. WRITTEN, ENGRAVED, AND PRINTED. The Latest London and Paris Styles. INITIALS, MONOGRAMS, CRESTS, ARMS, ETC., STAMPED ON PAPER AND ENVELOPES, IN COLORS, GRAYS.

The Finest English, French and American Paper and Envelopes.

MONOGRAMS, ARMS, CRESTS, Designed and Engraved.

PRINTING DESKS, TRAVELING CASES, FORTFOLIO, POCKET-BOOKS, KNIVES, BACKGAMMON BOARDS, and a very large stock of

FINE STATIONERY. R. HOSKINS & CO., STATIONERS AND CARD ENGRAVERS, No. 913 ARCH Street 6 28 emrp

CHEAPEST PRINTING IN PHILADELPHIA AT THE "Evening Telegraph" Steam Job Printing Rooms, No. 108 South THIRD Street, second story.

Every description of Plain and Ornamental Printing executed with neatness and dispatch, at surprisingly low prices.

HADDOCK & SON, Proprietors, 914 1/2 mrp Late of No. 618 MARKET Street.

GEO. A. COOKE'S COALEMPORIUM 1314 WASHINGTON AV.

IF YOU WANT PERFECT SATISFACTION in every respect, buy the celebrated FRETTON COAL. This and Sive sizes at \$7 per ton. Also, the genuine EAGLE VEIN COAL, same size, same price, and a very fine quality of LEAD. See our list of prices at No. 114 South THIRD Street. 5 24

CHARLES E. CLARK, No. 11 North ELEVENTH Street, BEDDING

COTTAGE FURNITURE WAREHOUSE. Hair and Buck Mattresses, Feather Beds, Bolsters, and all kinds of Bedding.

Best Quality of Spring Mattresses, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Washstands, Chairs, Towel Racks, Locking Chests, &c. &c. Give daily by New Cash as Feathers and Down, Comfortables and Blankets. 6 6 wsm2m

WRITTEN AND VERBAL DESCRIPTIONS of character, with advice on business, health, education, &c. given daily by J. L. CAPER at No. 28 S. TENTH Street, above Chesnut.

SADDLERY, HARNESS, &c. THE OLDEST AND LARGEST SADDLE & HARNESS MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE COUNTRY. ESTABLISHED 1812.

Lacey, Meeker & Co., RETAIL HOUSE, No. 1216 CHESTNUT STREET, WHOLESALE HOUSE, No. 630 MARKET STREET, OFFER OF THEIR OWN MANUFACTURE, SADDLES, TWO HUNDRED STYLES, TWO THOUSAND QUALITIES, HARNESS FROM \$15 TO \$500 PER SET. MOUNTINGS, BRIDLES, BITS, WHIPS, BLANKETS, ROBES, GEORGIA HARNESS, PLOUGH BRIDLES, HOG COLLARS, PADDED HAMES, WOOD STIRRUPS, TRAVELLING BAGS, TRUNKS AND VALISES, LUNCH BASKETS, CHAMOIS, COMBS, BRUSHES, BLACKING, BOOTS, ETC. ETC.

We call the attention of Merchants visiting this market, also the City Retail Trade, to our large, cheap, and varied stock.

LARGEST STOCK OF Fur Robes in the City. Fur Robes in the City. Fur Robes in the City.

Lap Rugs, French and English, HANDSOME PATTERNS.

HORSE BLANKETS, Great Variety of our own Manufacture, CHEAPER THAN THE CHEAPEST.

SLEIGH BELLS. SLEIGH BELLS. SLEIGH BELLS.

French Travelling Bags, Pressing and Shirt Cases. Lunch Baskets.

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PAPER HANGINGS. PAPER HANGINGS. HOWELL & BOURKE, CORNER OF PHILADELPHIA, FOURTH AND MARKET STS., MANUFACTURERS OF Paper Hangings AND Window Shades, Have now in Store for FALL TRADE, A Fine Stock of Goods, the newest and best styles, ELEGANT VELVET DECORATIONS Of all grades. PARLOR PAPERS OF THE RICHEST DESIGNS. 40-INCH PLAIN PAPERS, OF every shade, with rich GOLD MOULDINGS, all widths, to which we invite the attention of the Trade.

WINDOW SHADES, OF FINE SCOTCH HOLLANDS, All widths, White, Buff, Green, Blue, and Pearl Color. ELEGANT FIGURED SHADES of the most elaborate designs. PICTURE CORDS, TASSELS, AND SHADE TRIMMINGS.

To the WHOLESALE TRADE we offer an Extensive Stock of GREEN AND BROWN GUM CLOTHS, TABLE OIL CLOTHS, at the Lowest Net Cash Prices, and work done by competent hands.

THEY WILL BE FOUND PURE AND SONOROUS IN TONE. THE TREBLE AND TENOR LIQUID, BRILLIANT, AND MELODIOUS. THE BASS DEEP, CLEAR, AND RICH. THE TOUCH LIGHT, ELASTIC, AND POWERFUL.

THE UPRIGHT PIANO. THE FASHIONABLE PIANO OF EUROPE. CHICKERING & SONS. Have paid particular and minute attention, by frequent and costly experiment, to the manufacture of

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THE UPRIGHT PIANO is, from its size, suited to hundreds of houses where a Grand or a Square would prove an incumbrance. It is suited not only for the Parlor, but for the Boarding and the Study. CHICKERING & SONS have paid particular attention to the COMPACTNESS OF SIZE, AND THE BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE OF DESIGN, AND STRENGTH AND DURABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENT.

CHICKERING PIANOS IN EUROPE. HANS VON BULOW, the great German Pianist, by letters just received from Europe proposed to play only the CHICKERING PIANOS during his concert tour in the United States.

W. H. DUTTON, No. 914 CHESTNUT Street.

PAPER HANGINGS. PAPER HANGINGS. HOWELL & BOURKE, CORNER OF PHILADELPHIA, FOURTH AND MARKET STS., MANUFACTURERS OF Paper Hangings AND Window Shades, Have now in Store for FALL TRADE, A Fine Stock of Goods, the newest and best styles, ELEGANT VELVET DECORATIONS Of all grades. PARLOR PAPERS OF THE RICHEST DESIGNS. 40-INCH PLAIN PAPERS, OF every shade, with rich GOLD MOULDINGS, all widths, to which we invite the attention of the Trade.

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It is with feelings of pride as American manufacturers that we publish the following testimonials which have been received by us recently.

EUROPEAN TESTIMONIALS. Received during the month of August, 1866.

Messrs. CHICKERING & SONS—Gentlemen—I have much pleasure in enclosing a document signed by the first composers, musicians, and professors in Europe. I had your Pianos in such high estimation (vide my certificate) that I felt it my duty to take one of them with me to Europe to ascertain the opinion of my professional brethren. The enclosed certificate will prove how unanimous they have been on the subject. I beg to forward at the same time a letter received from my friend Mr. Collard, which I am sure must be gratifying to you. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, yours very truly, JAMES M. WELLS.

LONDON, January 14, 1866.

James M. Wells, Esq.—I have great pleasure in asking you to convey to Messrs. CHICKERING & SONS the expression of my highest approval of their instruments. It is I consider, not merely a best instrument of American manufacture that I have tried, but one of the finest Grand Pianos that has ever come under my observation; and the Messrs. CHICKERING may well be proud of having turned out from their manufactory an instrument which, for very touch, quality, power, and workmanship, it would be very difficult to surpass in any part of the wide world. Dear Sir, very sincerely, yours, WILLIAM D. COLLARD, Firm of Collard & Collard, Piano-forte Manufacturers, London.

Messrs. CHICKERING & SONS—Gentlemen—I have been invited by Messrs. Collard to try a Grand Piano manufactured by you, and I have the honor to inform you of the opinion of my old friend Mr. C. D. Collard viz:—that it is the finest instrument I ever played on. Believe me gentlemen, most truly yours, J. L. HATTON.

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